

## **Press Release**

Monday, October 27, 2008

## DPS Investigating Collision Multiple Fatalities on Interstate-8

At about 7:37 p.m. today, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Officers responded to a single vehicle, serious injury collision westbound on Interstate 8 near milepost 84. The collision is involving a commercial transport 16 passenger van. The van was traveling westbound when it lost control and rolled over onto the right shoulder of the roadway. A total of 12 passengers were in the van. Three passengers are confirmed dead at this time. Between five and seven passengers are being transported by helicopter to local area Trauma centers. Two persons are being reported with minor injuries. We have no reports of children being in the van.

The identity of the driver, passengers and transport company name is being withheld pending next of kin notification. The cause of the collision is under investigation. Traffic will only be restricted to allow medical helicopters to land and for the DPS officers to investigate the collision.

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The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with over 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.